



PRESS RELEASE

ROD HOOPS, SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE/TIME: Friday, February 13, 2009

INCIDENT: Weather Advisory

LOCATION: San Bernardino Mountains - Crestline, Lake Arrowhead and Running Springs areas

SUSPECT(S):

VICTIM(S):

SUMMARY: The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Twin Peaks Station, would like to advise anyone traveling to the San Bernardino mountain areas this weekend to be prepared for extreme weather conditions. Snow above the 3,000 foot level is probable making driving extremely hazardous. The conditions are expected to continue through Tuesday with the possibility of several feet of snow.

When traveling to and in the mountains, always carry chains in your vehicles, including all four wheel drives. Recent storms have created road conditions necessitating R3 chain control, which means all vehicles, including 4WD must chain up. Be advised it is imperative drivers find a safe place off the roadway surface to put on chains. Stopping in traffic lanes to chain up may subject the driver to being cited for blocking the roadway.

For residents and visitors living and staying in the mountains, be prepared to park your vehicles off the paved roadway surface. San Bernardino County Code 53.033 states, "It shall be unlawful for any person operating or in charge of a vehicle to park or leave it unattended on any State or County roadway, so as to interfere with snow removal operations, except when necessary to comply with the directions of peace officers." It is not necessary for the plow to be right there in order to cite for the code.

Local law enforcement, including Deputies and CHP officers, will be proactively patrolling all roads, including residential areas to advise residents to park their vehicles off the paved roadway surface. In some cases, citations will be issued and vehicles will be towed in order to keep the road clear. It is the vehicle owner's responsibility to assure their vehicle is parked properly.

Please be prepared when traveling in the mountains. Travelers can expect highway traffic to be slow and it may take up to two hours or more to reach the mountain communities. Off-road travel is not recommended and should be postponed to a later date when weather improves. During 2008, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to over 400 search and rescue calls and many of them were a result of persons taking ill-advised hikes or off-road trips.

Law enforcement in the mountain areas wants all residents and visitors to travel safely and reach their destinations. Make sure all cell phones are charged, take water and blankets and be sure to advise friends and family of your plans.

Refer: Sheriff's Public Affairs or Twin Peaks Station

Station:

Phone No. 909.387.3700

Case No.

ROD HOOPS, Sheriff-Coroner
San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department